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4 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: E. H. Knoche, DDCI

SUBJECT : New "Intelligence Successes"

Rosemarie advised that you wanted some thoughts on fresh material you might substitute for the intelligence successes you have cited on page 11 et seq. of the attached and in other speeches. A few suggestions follow. I am soliciting the views of others, but am getting precious little in the way of response. Should these, or I, develop additional ideas, I'll send a follow-up. Making them unclassified, unhappily, renders them inevitably less dramatic.

a. The flight of Soviet Air Force Lieutenant Victor Belenko to Japan, and his "present" to the free world of a brand new MIG-25, highlighted the important contributions defectors make to the intelligence process. CIA, as the one intelligence organization which includes experts in a variety of military and non-military fields, plays a central role in the debriefing of defectors, ensuring that we hear everything of importance that a defector has to tell us, and that his information is properly handled and analyzed.

b. International terrorism has posed a dramatic and ever-increasing threat to American security. As you know, terrorists in Iran, Lebanon, the Sudan and elsewhere have murdered a number of Americans in cold blood. What you may not be aware of is that on several occasions CIA was able to obtain advance knowledge of terrorist plots, which enabled the intended victims to take protective action. CIA early on began to develop a data bank on the international terrorist movement. With the information we have collected and compiled, we are able to give important assistance to other security services around the world; on a number of occasions this assistance has, in one way or another, led to the arrest of important and dangerous members of terrorist movements.

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c. The story of one of CIA's earliest successes was re-told in the press only a few weeks ago: our acquisition, and subsequent release, of Nikita Khrushchev's 1956 speech to the XXTh Congress of the CPSU. In this speech, you will recall, Khrushchev detailed many of the crimes and outrages of the Stalin era. Publication of the speech contributed to the erosion of the Soviet Union's "humanitarian" image in the third world; sent shock waves throughout the international communist movement; and helped to advance the rift between the Soviet and the Chinese, who were favorably disposed to Stalin.

d. CIA linguists who monitor foreign media have been very busy over the last few weeks monitoring foreign reactions to the election of Jimmy Carter as President and to the President-Elect's appointments in the Foreign Policy field. We have prepared briefing papers based on this data, so that the new administration will be able to anticipate possible shifts in attitude of a number of countries with whom the United States has significant ties.



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Attachment